

## **Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism GO SERV**

### **Citizen Corps and CERT Program "Quick Update" Newsletter Number 4: June 2003**

#### **FY 03 Citizen Corps/CERT Funding Update**

As you recall, a funding appropriation of \$20 M nationally was approved for FY 03, for CERT only. FEMA headquarters announced this week that \$18.8 M of these funds are now being released out to the states and local governments. California will receive \$1.49 M for FY '03; slightly less than the combined Citizen Corps/CERT 02 cycle of \$1.66 M, on a population-based formula. 75% of the funds are directly passed to local governments and 25% retained at the state level.

We had also previously reported that FEMA had verbally confirmed that a portion of discretionary funds under the President's FY '03 Wartime Supplemental Budget recently signed could be used for Citizen Corps activities—adding to the already approved 03 CERT funds. However, so far, there has not been any movement in this direction. We will continue to work aggressively with FEMA Region IX and headquarters on this important matter.

Work continues in Congress for the 2004 budget. The president's proposal for Citizen Corps is \$181 million nationally. There has not been any definitive movement in this dollar figure during the committee process to date; we will keep you informed.

EMPG reminder: FEMA released supplemental guidance on the use of EMPG funds that allows for an optional use towards Citizen Corps/CERT related activities. For any further clarification on this process please contact CA OES staff, where the program is administered for the state.

#### **Grantee Update**

##### ***FY 03 Grantee Application Update***

We have been informed that FEMA Region IX has received the 03 CERT funding guidance from FEMA headquarters. We anticipate that the Region will send GO SERV its guidance in mid-June. GO SERV will then prepare and submit CA's application, which will then need to be approved by both FEMA Region IX and headquarters. Upon this approval, GO SERV will release its 2003 Guide to Local and Tribal Governments.

Our FY 02 strategy was to provide every county with a very modest amount of "seed money" to start their Citizen Corps and CERT programs. This approach required us to extend our deadlines by several months to allow for Operational Areas (OAs) to complete their applications.

For the 03 funding, GO SERV plans to:

- further streamline the application process;
- offer OA grantees the opportunity to submit consolidated applications as regional collaboratives; and,

- only extend deadlines once, and then only for thirty (30) days.

**To be considered for the 2003 CERT funding, Operational Areas must complete and submit a “Letter of Intent.”** GO SERV will distribute the Letter of Intent next week directly to Operational Areas and Tribes. We anticipate the 2003 CERT program to be an extension and evolution of the program that began in 2002, with only minor modifications. Changes in 2003 will largely occur in the process for grant initiation and management. Most important this year is our necessity to determine much earlier who will be participating in the grant program, and our need to operate under much firmer application deadlines. We understand the pressure many OAs are under with other granting programs. However, the focus on flexibility in 2002 has led to the current situation where many grantees have not yet submitted correct, complete, or any application materials half way through the performance period. Additionally, the overlapping grant cycles with the 2003 CERT program is beginning. Further, those entities taking longer or that may ultimately not participate are indirectly penalizing those OAs, who submitted materials in on time and who are actively seeking assistance from the state in the development of their program. As a result, we regret the need for developing the firmer, strict deadlines you will see for the 2003 cycle, but they have become administratively necessary. Of course, we will continue to be available to work with everyone to develop their application materials and continue building their programs.

Similar to last year, funds will be distributed using a modified base plus population formula between the participating Operational Areas. Every OA and the Tribes are eligible for 03 funding. (The Intertribal Council of California will again serve as the grantee for California’s tribal nations.) OAs can defer their funding to another entity within their county (i.e., another county or city agency, or non-profit organization).

We are now “gearing up” for the 2003 cycle, including updates to the 02 guidance for this new round of funding that we will receive shortly. This will be a significant topic at our Summer Institute. However, any and all thoughts from you regarding: what is working well, what we should consider updating, and new ideas to address in this evolving program are very welcome. One of the most immediate questions we would like your feedback on is the most desirable beginning of the performance period for the 03 CERT grants.

Option 1: begin the 12-month performance period as soon as possible, when California’s application is approved. It is likely that late July is the approximate earliest date funding could be secured.

Option 2: wait until a later date to begin the performance period—Late August or early September.

Option 1 would allow for CERT funding to be invoiced from the 2003 funds by local governments at the earliest date, but would require applications to be done over the next 6 weeks approximately; option 2 would forgo the need for any applications until late in the summer, would minimize overlap of the 02 and 03 grants, but would delay invoicing ability for the 03 CERT funds. Your feedback to us is encouraged.

Thanks in advance for your input and continuing support of the state Citizen Corps/Emergency Volunteerism effort!

#### ***Quarterly Report Submission - July 15***

The first program narrative report is due July 15, 2003. This report should cover the period from your program’s inception to June 30, 2003. Some of you will have several months of

activity to report, others will have less. As you recall, GO SERV waived the first programmatic reporting requirement (due April 15) because most of you were still in the initial stages of program planning and implementation.

### **GO SERV-Sponsored Activities**

#### ***GO SERV Summer Grantee Institute (note date change!)***

In our April update we announced that GO SERV will conduct its Summer Institute, July 15-17, in Sacramento. There has been an unavoidable need to change the dates. The Institute will now likely take place the first week of August. We apologize for the shift, but it was unavoidable due to national decisions that GO SERV is awaiting for its AmeriCorps programs from the Corporation for National and Community Service. As soon as a new venue and exact dates are secured, we will let you know immediately.

As a reminder, GO SERV already offers this annual training for all of its many grantees. The purpose of this Institute is to provide training, technical assistance and guidance on new and ongoing grants, now to include Citizen Corps and CERT. This will be an excellent opportunity to bring together our new Citizen Corps and CERT grantees to dialogue about program planning and implementation, share program approaches, best practices and discuss issues related to grant management. We are inviting guest speakers from the American Red Cross, California OES and the new federal Department of Homeland Security and state Office of Homeland Security.

The costs for attendance will be handled in this manner: 1) GO SERV will directly cover the participation costs of 1 person from each grantee; 2) a second (or third) person may be funded by your 2002 grants and/or your 2003 grant yet to be determined. More on the financing to come under separate cover.

Ideally, we encourage two participants per grantee to attend the Institute. Specific costs will be for travel, lodging and meals. There are no registration or material fees for the Institute. The cost for one person is estimated at \$400.

#### ***SERV California 2003, The Governor's Service, Volunteerism and Mentoring Conference***

Just a reminder that the first annual Governor's Conference on Service, Volunteerism and Mentoring, will be October 6-9 in Los Angeles. The conference agenda will include sessions and a "mini plenary track" on "Securing the Homeland with Citizen Engagement." Two exciting opportunities exist to become much more involved with this conference through the emergency volunteerism/homeland security theme: 1) have your organization become a partner or sponsor of the conference; and 2) deliver a professional development workshop topic in the field (a "call to presenters" will be coming soon). More information on these options can be found at <http://www.goserv.ca.gov/events/gcpublic.asp> or contact Adam Sutkus directly to learn more (staff contact info at end of newsletter).

#### ***CERT Train the Trainer T-T-T Course in Roseville***

GO SERV, in collaboration with the Placer County Office of Emergency Services (OES) and City of Roseville hosted its first CERT T-T-T training at the Roseville Fire Department's Training Institute in Roseville, May 7-9th. Thirty participants from six counties and the Tribal Nations participated in the course - Amador, El Dorado, Nevada, Placer, Sacramento and Yolo counties. The group represented diverse backgrounds that included Sacramento City Fire Department, Sacramento County Fire, Sacramento Sheriff's Department, Sacramento Police Department, Roseville City Police Department, Roseville City Fire

Department, Lincoln City Fire Department, Roseville Coalition of Neighborhood Associations, American Red Cross Sacramento Sierra Chapter, American Red Cross Three Rivers Chapter, American Red Cross Western Nevada County Chapter, Woodland Fire Department Volunteer Group, and the Inter-Tribal Council of California.

Captain James Harkins from Los Angeles City Fire Department conducted the course. Course content included how to start-up and maintain a CERT program, how to adapt the CERT course materials, how to teach the CERT course, instructor selection and development. Many thanks to Placer County Office of Emergency Services and the Roseville City Fire Department and the Los Angeles City Fire Department for helping to make this a very successful course. A photograph of the Roseville Group is on GO SERV's Web site. (Special thanks to Captain Harkins and L.A. City Fire!!)

### ***CERT Train-the-Trainer Schedule for 2003***

GO SERV, in collaboration with several Operational Areas, plans to conduct seven more CERT Train the Trainer courses during the calendar year. These are the first in a series of T-T-T courses that are needed to help advance CERT in CA. GO SERV acknowledges that there is a high demand for this training. Unfortunately, our resources this year only allow us to sponsor a limited number of courses.

Our aim is to provide an opportunity for each county and the Tribal Nations to participate in one CERT T-T-T course this year, with an average of 35 participants per course. We have decided not to place the course schedule on the GO SERV web site; hopefully, this will avoid unnecessary inquiries to the counties and GO SERV by individuals seeking the courses. Invitations will be coordinated with and through the sponsoring County for each TTT course.

The location and dates of the courses are as follows:

Fresno City, June 24-26

San Mateo County, July 30-August 1

Mendocino County, August 12-14

Humboldt County, August 19-21

Santa Barbara County, September 17-19

Los Angeles County, October

San Bernadino County, October 20-22

We will continue to keep you updated on revisions in the schedule as they occur. Thanks to the Operational Areas for their support to organize these courses. For further information, please contact Kristina Rosseini on the GO SERV staff.

### **Other News**

#### ***Jaycees Statewide Partnership***

GO SERV is proud to announce a strong partnership that has been forged with the state Jaycees organization. The Jaycees are an organization of young professionals dedicated to promoting and developing their communities statewide. Nationally, the Jaycees are a partner to FEMA/Department of Homeland Security for Citizen Corps development. We are lucky to have a motivated cadre of Jaycee groups in California that wish to become a strong force in promoting Citizen Corps and community preparedness for homeland security and emergencies of all types. The most exciting link with our Jaycee partners is the potential for their networks and organizational skills to be applied towards developing Councils and CERT programs throughout the state—especially where resources are stretched in the CBO/NGO and

government areas. We will keep you informed as this exciting partnership evolves, and how to partner with Jaycee chapters in your area.

### ***FLASH Program***

Governor Davis and First Lady Sharon Davis recently announced the launch of FLASH: A California Partnership for Safety and Preparedness. FLASH is an alliance of public and private partnerships that will focus on teaching safety and preparedness to California schoolchildren. FLASH has created a unique partnership of involved state and federal agencies and private partners including FEMA, the American Red Cross, the Salvation Army, the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES), the California Department of Education, the California Office of Homeland Security and GO SERV.

FLASH is expected to be launched in October 2003, with a weeklong program for California's kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students. During the week youths will be taught age-appropriate safety and preparedness lessons that cover emergency situations and natural and man-made disasters. At the end of the week students will take home a family plan so the entire family can improve its preparedness and resilience.

Many high profile private sector sponsorships are taking shape to promote this evolving effort—the First Lady discussed this initiative at the Disaster Resistant California conference in San Jose recently, and her excitement and dedication to FLASH was clear. We will keep you apprised of this program's development.

### ***Medical Reserve Corps Update***

Although the guidance from Health and Human Services/Office of the Surgeon General has still not been released for the 2003 cycle, we continue to “gear up” for the next applications for demonstration grants. As you may recall, \$50,000 grants were awarded around the nation, 3 in California, as start-up activities for this effort. With the help of the Emergency Medical Services Authority, we are advocating California's applications this year—as we did last—as a “group.” In this manner all CA MRC applications will hopefully receive a more comprehensive viewing and consideration at the federal level.

A very positive development in the MRC area is that the both the Centers for Disease Control and Hospital bioterrorism 2003 grant program applications to the states reflect the inclusion of Medical Reserve Corps—reflecting the importance of these quickly developing entities to homeland security at the community level. GO SERV is thankful for a strong relationship with EMSA and also Dept. of Health Services at the state level to collaborate and include MRC in joint, ongoing planning efforts for both Citizen Corps and medical response systems.

If you need any direct information on the MRC process, please contact our state partners at EMSA on this effort—ask for Norma Shraeder, 916-322-4336, ext. 467.

### ***Tribal Nations Update***

The Inter-Tribal Council of California, Inc. (ITCC) is partnering with the Office of Emergency Services (OES) and the California Specialized Training Institute (CSTI) and GO SERV to conduct emergency management workshops, focus group meetings and CERT Train-The-Trainer courses for all tribes in California in the following locations:

Fresno/Kings County, July 1,  
Sacramento County, July 23&24,  
Shasta County, August 6

Mendocino County, August 26-29  
Riverside/San Diego Counties, July 30&31, and Sept. 24&25  
Inyo County, October 8.

If you have a Native American Tribe in your county we strongly encourage you to participate. ITCC is interested in inviting Citizen Corps Council Representatives to these events to encourage Tribes to participate in their activities and to join in their local Citizen Corps Council's efforts. Please contact Linda Amelia, Emergency Management Program Coordinator or Eilene Cary, Assistant at (916) 973-9581 or by e-mail: [lindaa@itccinc.org](mailto:lindaa@itccinc.org) as soon as possible.

We also congratulate ITCC and the Tribal Nations for launching a statewide emergency planning and Citizen Corps Council development effort recently. Representatives of many Tribal Nations met with GO SERV and ITCC at FEMA Region IX. FEMA Regional Administrator Jeff Griffen hosted the meeting for the Tribes. The result was the formation of a Tribal Nations Citizen Corps Coordinating Council and all-hazard planning body statewide. GO SERV is excited to partner with the Tribes of CA in this new, historic endeavor taking shape.

#### ***Staffing Updates***

As of June 1<sup>st</sup> we bid goodbye to Joanne Burke who has helped us launch the Train-The-Trainer program for CERT and other key Citizen Corps programs. We thank her for her excellent work and wish her good luck in her new international consulting position.

We also welcome a new addition to GO SERV's Volunteer Emergency Management and Homeland Security staff: Katrina Rosseini. Katrina is our staff's Assistant Project Analyst who comes to us from another group within the Governor's office; she will be helping us on everything from grant assistance, CERT course development, to administrative support of our statewide stakeholder group. We are excited to have her here as part of our (and your) state Citizen Corps team!

#### **GO SERV STAFF CONTACTS:**

<b>Staff Person</b>	<b>Telephone Number</b>	<b>E-Mail Address</b>
Adam Sutkus	(916) 324-3056	<a href="mailto:Asutkus@goserv.ca.gov">Asutkus@goserv.ca.gov</a>
Greg Chun	(916) 324-7947	<a href="mailto:Gchun@goserv.ca.gov">Gchun@goserv.ca.gov</a>
Katrina Rosseini	(916) 445-9944	<a href="mailto:Krosseini@goserv.ca.gov">Krosseini@goserv.ca.gov</a>